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Question Time: Worst Christmas songs ever

What holiday melody would you kill and why?

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note**: To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

Last year, we asked you for a playlist of your top five favorite Christmas songs. So, this year, in an effort to flip the script, we wanted to know: "If you could erase one Christmas song from existence which one would it be and why?"

We received almost 100 votes. The results were surprising. People apparently feel very strongly about this subject. To accommodate as many responses as possible, we're tweaking the Question Time format a bit, counting down your answers from least votes to most and then giving you our answers. As you'll see, certain version of the songs received more ire than others.

Among those who received one vote each were: "White Christmas" — Irving Berlin (1940); "Angels We Have Heard on High" — Traditional; "I'll Be

Home for Christmas” — Bing Crosby (1943); “Baby’s First Christmas” — Connie Francis (1961) (Reader AnnMarie Hartman Adams said she wants to “bash [her] head” whenever she hears it.); “Same Old Lang Syne” — Dan Fogelberg (1980) (Reader Cade Kincaid Somers told us: “Christmas and creepy don’t mix.”); “Holly Jolly Christmas” — Burl Ives (1964) (Reader Felix Baguette told us: “I was stuck in Phoenix on a really hot December day and I was pumping gas, and there was a speaker on the gas pump blaring that song. I have not recovered.”); “Snoopy’s Christmas” — The Royal Guardsmen; “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” — Johnny Marks (1949); “The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don’t Be Late)” — The Chipmunks and David Seville (1958) (As reader Jamie Nelson put it: “They look like road kill with sweaters and sound like one of my dogs squeaky toys!”); and “Happy Xmas (War Is Over)” — John Lennon and Yoko Ono (1971).

On a side note, one person said they hated every Christmas song sung by Aaron Neville, another can’t stand CeeLo Green (Reader Jessica Green Cardwell said: “His version of any Christmas song is terrible.”) and two readers expressed their disdain for any holiday melody emanating from Mariah Carey.

‘Dominick the Donkey’ — Lou Monte (1960) — 2 votes

“It’s offensive to Eye-talians.” — **Tony Pironello**

‘Santa Claus Is Coming To Town’ — John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie (1934) — 2 votes

“[I hate it] because Bruce Springsteen is singing it.” — **Rob Dly**

“Bruce Springsteen’ s [version] is too repetitive and majorly annoying!” — **Shannon Janee Barraza**

‘I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus’ — Jimmy Boyd (1952) — 2 votes

“It just weirds me out.” — **Michelle Reinholt Darden**

‘Little Drummer Boy’ — Katherine Kennicott Davis (1941) — 3 votes

“The endless repetition drives me crazy!” — **Diana Vance**

‘Blue Christmas’ — Elvis Presley (1964) — 3 votes

“Get rid of the backup singers and it might not be too bad.” — **Lois Mundy Walker**

“I hate sad Christmas songs!” — **Debbie Todd Cannon**

‘Feliz Navidad’ — José Feliciano (1970) — 3 votes

“The tune grates on my nerves!” — **Mindy Slone Hunter**

“My husband and son love it and play it into the dirt!” — **Kati Pohlman**

‘Jingle Bells’ – James Lord Pierpont (1857) – 3 votes

“Dogs barking ‘Jingle Bells!’” — **Laura Thomason Simms**

“Those ridiculous barking dogs!” — **Tammy Lockhart Saul**

“All I Want For Christmas Is You” — Mariah Carey (1994) – 3 votes

“The most overplayed song ever in my book.” — **Tyane Mileam**

None (with possible exceptions) — 3 votes

“Can I just have a wish that all you people get some Christmas spirit?” — **Lu Ann Quackenbush Smith**

“I love Christmas music! It’s happy and cheer full and healthy for the soul.

We play it in my house and in the car from Thanksgiving until the day after Christmas. My kids [and I] enjoy singing them together!” —**Marie Weber**

“As long as they bring joy to at least one person, each song should remain in existence. Well, except for the 'Glee' Christmas songs. They need to go. Way too much auto-tune and no talent.” — **Vince Dietzen**

‘Wonderful Christmastime’ - Paul McCartney (1979) – 5 votes

“Makes my ears bleed.” — **Debbie Bailey**

“It’s horrible.” — **Rob Dly**

“It’s awful and an earworm to boot.” — **Michelle Calhoun**

“Where were his ‘people’ to tell him how ridiculously terrible the song was while still in production?” — **Misty “Willis” Link**

‘Santa Baby’ — Joan Javits and Phillip Springer (1953) — 5 votes

“I cringe every time I hear [Madonna] sing it.” — **Lisa Hoover Schell**

“Over-played for me!” — **Mikell Kling**

‘I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas’ — Gayla Peevey (1953) — 5 votes

“I don’t like hippos, and I don’t want one for Christmas. I don’t know where I’d put it.” — **Beth Victor Klemmensen**

“I mean, ‘really?’” — **Nicole Walker**

“It’s stupid. Why would you have one?” — **Richard Frey**

“The place I worked at several years ago played this song once every hour. It just got so exhausting. Well, one day it came on the radio and I asked for it to be changed, wrong thing to do. Now every year Santa brings me several hippopotamuses.” — **Cortney Justice**

‘The Christmas Shoes’ — NewSong (2000) — 6 votes

“Sad message, but bad, bad song!” — **Sarah Smith Fleek**

“I’ll let my 9-year -old daughter’s comment explain it: ‘She’s dying. Why buy shoes? Buy her medicine!’ Stupidest song ever.” — **Amy Carter Henderson**

“I have to change the station whenever it comes in.” — **Danielle Gates Rush**

‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ - Traditional – 7 votes

“It’s the most annoying song ever.” — **Fredye Hampton Mattox**

“I hate, hate, hate that song.” — **Tammy Tygart Poole**

“Hate that song. Makes no sense at all and way too long.” — **Mark Hudson**

“It’s just plain annoying.” — **Jim Kimener**

“I hate that song!” — **Amy Smith**

All (with possible exceptions) – 10 votes

“Just one! Please, make it 1,000. I’ve been hearing X-mas tunes for more than 65 years. I’m totally burned out on all of them.” — **Patrick Graham**

“Every one ever written.” — **Gary James**

“All except ‘Frosty the Snowman.’” — **Stacey A. Tyler Newton**

'Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer' - Elmo & Patsy (1984) – 13 votes

“My grandbabies love to play it for me OVER AND OVER AND OVER and just giggle and laugh.” — **Sandy Seals Beatty**

“Sick of hearing it!” — **Belinda Schmidt**

“Hate it, hate it, hate it.” — **Betty Hoskins**

“No respect for any Grandma. Simply disgusting.” — **Lennie Wynn Russell**

Our answers

“I like them all, actually.” — **Mike Fletcher**

“I think most Christmas songs have their place and time, but it should be a federal offense for a radio station to dedicate its entire format to Christmas music before Thanksgiving. Bah, humbug.” — **Josh Sigler**

“I have to agree with most of the choices our readers went with. The

unabashed lust for material possessions in ‘Santa Baby’ makes me cringe every time. If you listen to the words of ‘Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer’ it is obvious Grandpa was the true murderer and is using ‘Santa’ as a convenient patsy. ‘Christmas Shoes’ is so lame as to be self-parody. (I actually like the dogs barking ‘Jingle Bells’ and ‘Wonderful Christmastime,’ but that’s me.) My least favorite category is any Christmas song written by an adult for a child to sing. (I’m thinking of ‘I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas’ and ‘I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus’ specifically here. The ideas expressed in these songs are horrifying.) I can’t believe only one other person singled out my least favorite Christmas song, though: ‘All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth,’ a 1948 song by Spike Jones & His City Slickers. With the possible exception of Otis Redding’s ‘(Sittin’ On) The Dock of The Bay’ I cannot stand whistling in any song, let alone the constant trilling in that one. Egads! For the love of everything holy, will someone please get that stupid kid some front teeth, stat?” — **Rob Burgess**

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